

14. A NOTE ON AN ADDITIONAL LOCALITY FOR *ACANTHASPIS QUINQUESPINOSA* FABRICIUS 1781
(INSECTA: HEMIPTERA: REDUVIIDAE)RAHUL KHOT^{1,2} AND VITHOBA HEGDE¹¹Bombay Natural History Society, Hornbill House, Shaheed Bhagat Singh Road, Mumbai 400 001, Maharashtra, India.²Email: rahul.bnhs@gmail.com

During a faunistic survey at Ansure (16° 33' 56.1" N; 73° 23' 23.0" E) near Jaitapur, Taluka Rajapur, District Ratnagiri, Maharashtra, on July 13, 2009, we collected one specimen of *Acanthaspis quinquespinosa* Fabricius underneath a rock (BNHS - Insect day-book entry No. 14/2009).

The measurements (in mm), colour and other details are as follows.

Abbreviations used L = Length, W = Width.

Head – L = 1.5, W = 1.90; Thorax (pronotum including lateral spines) – L = 3.6, W = 4.85; Abdomen – L = 7.5, W = 4.65; Total length – 12; Rostrum – L = 2.5; Scutellar spine – L = 1.5; Tibia – Foreleg – L = 4.35; Tibia – Mid leg – L = 4.5; Tibia – Hind leg – L = 6.4; Colour - black. Four posterior spines on pronotum, two lateral and two discal with transverse discal spots at the basal area. Scutellar spine is long, obliquely ascending. Each forewing with a pale yellow spot.

A. quinquespinosa Fabricius 1781 is an aposematic, crepuscular, entomosuccivorous, polyphagous and multivoltine assassin bug found in the tropical evergreen forests, scrub jungles, semiarid zones and agroecosystems of peninsular India (Sahayaraj 2007). The bioecology (Ambrose 1983), ethology (Ambrose *et al.* 1986), new methods for mass rearing (Lakkundi 1989) and biology in relation to different habitats (Sahayaraj 2007) of this bug have been studied.

According to the previous records, the distribution of this bug from Maharashtra was known to be Bombay (now Mumbai) and Bor Ghat (now Bhor Ghat, district Pune) (Distant 1904; Bergroth 1915; Ambrose 2006).

The habitat of the specimen collected was a rocky plateau beside a road with a few trees and shrubs. Throughout the survey, the area was always overclouded and was frequently receiving heavy rainfall. At the time of collection, the insect was found underneath a rock, and was seen active and moving away from the turned rock. Occurrence of *A. quinquespinosa* at Ansure indicates its presence in Ratnagiri district, which is a new locality for this species. *A. quinquespinosa* may be well-distributed in the Konkan region of Maharashtra. In view of the lack of information about the distribution of this species in Maharashtra, the information about its additional locality is noteworthy.

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